

# MULTI-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLE WITH A FRONT TRANSAXLE DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a front transaxle device of a multi-wheel-drive vehicle.

### Background Art

[0002] Conventionally, a multi-wheel-drive vehicle wherein four or more wheels are driven is known.

[0003] In this multi-wheel-drive vehicle, transaxle devices for supporting axles are disposed corresponding to the positions of the axles. For example, a rear transaxle device for supporting rear axles is disposed at a rear portion of the vehicle, and a front transaxle device for supporting front axles is disposed at a front portion of the vehicle. In a structure where six or more wheels are driven, a middle transaxle device for supporting middle axles is disposed at a longitudinally intermediate portion of the vehicle.

[0004] Furthermore, a transmission which transmits the power from a prime mover (e.g., an engine) is provided. By transmitting the power from the transmission to each of the transaxle devices, the wheels are driven through each of the axles.

[0005] In comparison with a two-wheel-drive structure, the above-mentioned multi-wheel-drive structure is more useful in that its driving performance over a bad road is good, and plenty of power is available for climbing a hill. Thus, this structure has come to be widely adopted by various kinds of vehicles such as automobiles, agricultural trucks, and the like.

[0006] Now, further improvement of such a multi-wheel-drive vehicle in terms of its driving performance over bad roads, cost-saving, maintainability, etc., is increasingly desired given the increasing popularity of such vehicles.

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